

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of the claims will replace the previous version, and the listing of the claims:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An X-ray equipment comprising:

a carriage,

an X-ray tube mounted on the carriage for irradiating ~~X-ray~~ X-rays,

a cassette storage box pivotally attached to the carriage for storing a cassette with a radiographic storage medium,

storage box locking means engaging the cassette storage box for locking the cassette storage box in a locked state, and

locking release holding means attached to the storage box locking means for holding the storage box locking means in a released state so that the storage box locking means is released from the locked state.

2. (original) An X-ray equipment according to claim 1, further comprising auto-lock switching means attached to the storage box locking means for switching the storage box locking means from the released state to the locked state when the cassette storage box is closed.

3. (original) An X-ray equipment according to claim 2, wherein said storage box locking means includes a pin and a hook to engage together in the locked state and to disengage from each other in the released state.

4. (original) An X-ray equipment according to claim 3, wherein said locking release holding means includes an elastic member for urging the hook in a direction so that the hook engages the pin in the

locked state, and for urging the hook in a direction so that the hook moves away from the pin in the released state.

5. (original) An X-ray equipment according to claim 3, wherein said auto-lock switching means includes a lever for pushing the hook, and a boss for pushing the lever so that when the cassette storage box is closed, the boss pushes the lever to move the hook toward the pin to thereby allow the storage box locking means to switch from the released state to the locked state.

6. (original) An X-ray equipment according to claim 3, wherein said pin is attached to the cassette storage box and said hook is rotatably supported on the carriage.

7. (currently amended) An X-ray equipment according to claim 6, wherein said locking release holding means includes a spring attached to the carriage for urging the hook in a direction so that the hook engages the pin in the locked state, and for urging the hook in a direction so that the hook moves away from the pin in the released state; a stopper provided on the hook; and an opening provided in the carriage for receiving the stopper to allow the hook to move in a limited angle so that the storage box locking means is held in the released state when the stopper abuts against an edge of the opening.

8. (original) An X-ray equipment according to claim 7, wherein said auto-lock switching means includes a lever rotatably attached to the carriage for pushing the hook, and a boss attached to the cassette storage box for pushing the lever to rotate so that when the cassette storage box is closed, the boss pushes the lever to move the hook toward the pin to thereby allow the storage box locking means to switch from the released state to the locked state.

9. (new) An X-ray equipment according to claim 1, wherein said locking release holding means includes an elastic member for urging the storage box locking means in the locked state when the storage box locking means is locked, and for urging the storage box locking means in the released state when the storage box locking means is released.